

Appl. No. 09/895,759
Amdt. Dated May 26, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 9, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P13576-US1
EUS/J/P/05-1138

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1-8, 10-22, 24-30 and 32-33 and cancelled claims 9, 23 and 31; no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 10-22, 24-30 and 32-33 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-33 because of informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 9, 11-15, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27 and 31 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has cancelled claims 9, 23 and 31 and, therefore, the Examiner's rejection thereof is moot. The Applicant has amended claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 26 and 27 to correct the antecedent basis deficiencies noted by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 5 and 27 on the asserted basis that "the limitation 'the distance between each step' is unclear as steps are not known to have distance," the Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 14, line 11, where the meaning of a "step" is defined. Those skilled in the art understand the meaning of that term in the context of the claimed invention and, therefore, the Applicant traverses the rejection.

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4.) Allowable Subject Matter

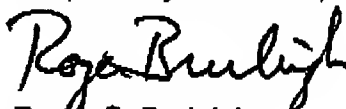
The Examiner stated that claims all claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the claim objections and §112 rejections. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Whereas the Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's claim objections and §112 rejections, all pending claims should now be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-8, 10-22, 24-30 and 32-33.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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